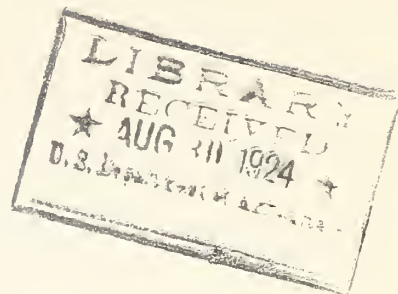


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Bi-489
July, '20

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY



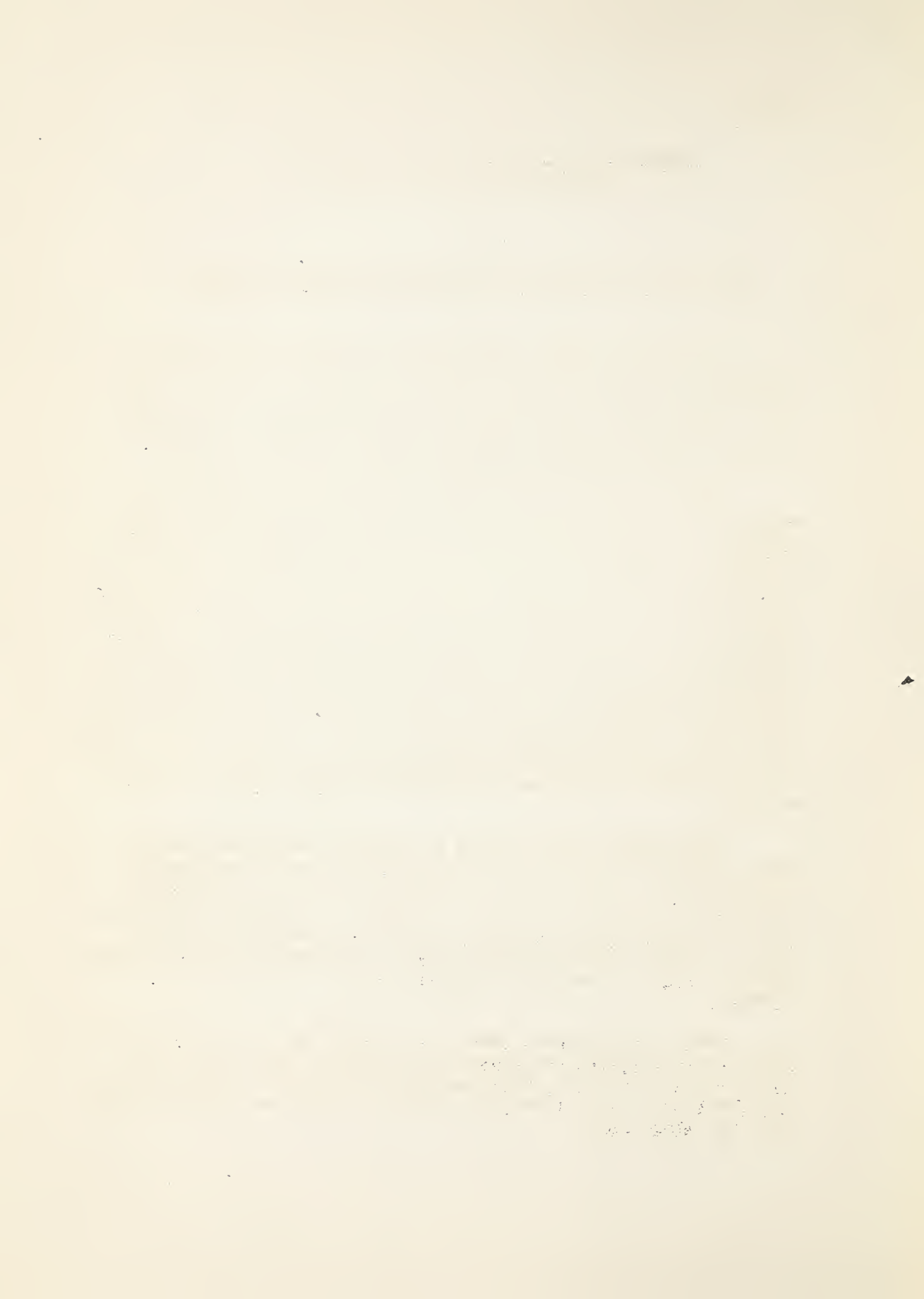
METHODS FOR ERADICATING OBJECTIONABLE ROOSTS OF BIRDS

At certain seasons, such birds as grackles (blackbirds), starlings, cowbirds, English sparrows, purple martins, and robins establish nightly roosts at which thousands often gather. Frequently these roosts are located in the residential sections of cities, where their noise and filth become a decided nuisance. To remove such roosts the following methods are recommended:

When the roost is populated with birds not protected by Federal or State laws (usually the case with grackles, cowbirds, and starlings) and when local regulations do not forbid, the use of shotguns is the most effective in bringing relief. Shells carrying No. 6 or No. 8 shot and loaded with black powder in order to make a loud report will give the best results. Firing may be done with perfect safety even in thickly settled sections, if directed upward toward the tree tops. In large roosts, where the bird population may be as great as 30,000 the work of four or five men will be required. Above all, shooting should begin when the first birds appear early in the evening, as then they may be easily frightened. Later on when darkness arrives, the use of guns avails but little as the birds will then move only a few yards at a time. Shooting should be kept up on successive evenings until the birds move on.

Persistence is the secret of success, and in the case of large roosts it may take five or six evenings to accomplish the desired result. Even after the birds have moved on, vigilance is required lest they attempt to reestablish the roost, either in the same tree or in a new abode. If they establish themselves where they will again be objectionable the process must be repeated until the roost is moved to a locality where it will not be a nuisance.

When such protected species as robins and martins are concerned or when roosts are formed in localities where the use of fire arms is prohibited, Roman candles may be used. Relief has been obtained even by installing electric lights or bells in trees where the birds roost.



Bi-489
12-25

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

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METHODS OF ERADICATING OBJECTIONABLE ROOSTS OF BIRDS

At certain seasons, such birds as grackles (blackbirds), starlings, cowbirds, English sparrows, purple martins, and robins establish nightly roosts at which thousands often gather. Frequently these roosts are in the residential sections of cities, where their noise and filth become a decided nuisance. To remove such roosts the following methods are recommended:

When the roost is populated with birds not protected by Federal or State laws (usually the case with English sparrows, grackles, cowbirds, and starlings) and when local regulations do not forbid, the use of shot-guns is most effective in bringing relief. Shells carrying No. 6 or No. 8 shot and loaded with black powder in order to make a loud report will give the best results. Firing may be done with perfect safety even in thickly settled sections, if directed upward toward the tree tops. In large roosts, where the bird population may be as great as 30,000 the work of four or five men will be required. Above all, shooting should begin when the first birds appear early in the evening, as then they may be easily frightened. Later on when darkness arrives, the use of guns avails but little as the birds will then move only a few yards at a time. Shooting should be kept up on successive evenings until the birds move on.

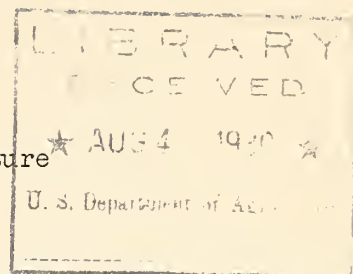
Persistence is the secret of success, and in the case of large roosts it may take five or six evenings to accomplish the desired result. Even after the birds have moved on, vigilance is required to prevent attempts to reestablish the roost, either in the same tree or elsewhere. If they establish themselves where they will again be objectionable the process must be repeated until the roost is moved to a locality where it will not be a nuisance.

When such protected species as robins and martins are concerned, or when roosts are formed in localities where the use of firearms is prohibited, Roman candles may be used. Relief has been obtained even by installing electric lights or bells in trees where the birds roost.

When roosts of unprotected species are in places that are partially or wholly inclosed, as in church towers, warehouses, lofts, porticoes, or even in vines on the outsides of buildings, they may at times be fumigated. When the roost inclosure can be made fairly tight, hydrocyanic acid gas may be used, provided that local regulations regarding its employment are respected. Directions for generating this gas may be found in Farmers' Bulletin 830, a copy of which may be obtained on application to this Department. In repairing this 1 ounce of sodium cyanide is sufficient for every 1,000 cubic feet of space to be fumigated. Where the birds have been found roosting in vines on the outsides of buildings or in partially inclosed areas some success has been had through the use of calcium-cyanide dust. A cloud of this poison, generated by hand-power dusters now on the market has given satisfactory results in roosts of English sparrows. Fumigation of any kind, however, should never be attempted by persons inexperienced in the methods of safe procedure.

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United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Biological Survey



METHODS FOR ERADICATING OBJECTIONABLE ROOSTS OF BIRDS

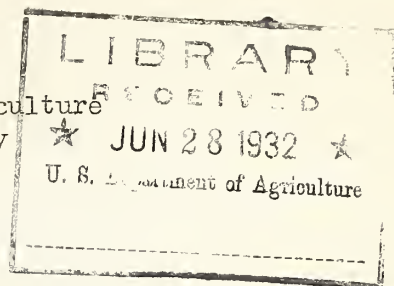
At certain seasons, such birds as grackles (blackbirds), starlings, cowbirds, English sparrows, purple martins, and robins establish nightly roosts at which thousands often gather. Frequently these roosts are located in the residential sections of cities, where their noise and filth become a decided nuisance. To remove such roosts the following methods are recommended:

When the roost is populated with birds not protected by Federal or State laws (usually the case with grackles, cowbirds, and starlings) and when local regulations do not forbid, the use of shotguns is the most effective in bringing relief. Shells carrying No. 6 or No. 8 shot and loaded with black powder in order to make a loud report will give the best results. Firing may be done with perfect safety even in thickly settled sections, if directed upward toward the treetops. In large roosts, where the bird population may be as great as 30,000, the work of four or five men will be required. Above all, shooting should begin when the first birds appear early in the evening, as then they may be easily frightened. Later on when darkness arrives, the use of guns avails but little, as the birds will then move only a few yards at a time. Shooting should be kept up on successive evenings until the birds move.

Persistence is the secret of success, and in the case of large roosts it may take five or six evenings to accomplish the desired result. Even after the birds have moved on, vigilance is required, lest they attempt to reestablish the roost, either in the same tree or in a new abode. If they establish themselves where they will again be objectionable the process must be repeated until the roost is moved to a locality where it will not be a nuisance.

When such protected species as robins and martins are concerned or when roosts are formed in localities where the use of fire arms is prohibited, Roman candles or strong streams of water from hose may be used. Relief has been obtained even by installing electric lights or bells in trees where the birds roost. An extreme measure -- pruning all small twigs and limbs from the trees -- also has proved effective.

United States Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Biological Survey



METHODS FOR ERADICATING OBJECTIONABLE ROOSTS OF BIRDS

At certain seasons, such birds as grackles (blackbirds), starlings, cowbirds, English sparrows, purple martins, and robins establish roosts at which large numbers, even thousands, gather for the night. Frequently these roosts are located where their noise and filth become a decided nuisance. To remove such roosts the following methods are recommended:

When the roost is populated with birds not protected by Federal or State laws (usually the case with grackles, cowbirds, and starlings) and when local regulations do not forbid, the use of shotguns is the most effective in bringing relief. Shells carrying No. 6 or No. 8 shot and loaded with black powder in order to make a loud report will give the best results. Firing may be done with perfect safety even in thickly settled sections, if directed upward toward the treetops. In large roosts, the work of several men may be required. Above all, shooting should begin when the first birds appear early in the evening, as then they may be easily frightened. Later on when darkness arrives, the use of guns avails but little, as the birds will then move only a few yards at a time. Shooting should be kept up on successive evenings until the birds move.

When such protected species as robins and martins are concerned or when roosts are formed in localities where the use of fire arms is prohibited, Roman candles or strong streams of water from hose may be used. Relief has been obtained even by installing electric lights or bells in trees where the birds roost. Pruning all small twigs and limbs from the trees-- an extreme measure-- also has proved effective.

Where roosts are established on buildings, the places resorted to can be covered with inch mesh cord or wire netting, or the birds may be whipped off with cat-o'-nine-tails long enough to reach the roosting ledges from the roof.

Persistence is the secret of success, and in the case of large roosts it may take five or six evenings to accomplish the desired result. Even after the birds have moved on, vigilance is required, lest they attempt to reestablish the roost. If they establish themselves where they will again be objectionable the process must be repeated until the roost is moved to a locality where it will not be a nuisance.

